IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1. (**Currently amended**): A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, one or more of ~~said~~ the first plurality of clients and ~~said~~ the second plurality of clients being designated as an active speaker, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(2) designating ~~said~~ the connection as an active speaker on ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server;

(3) receiving, over ~~said~~ the connection, a first audio packet from ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein ~~said~~ the first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(4) receiving, by ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein

~~said~~ the plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server; wherein ~~said~~ the plurality of audio packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

(5) forwarding, over ~~said~~ the connection, ~~said~~ the second audio packet to ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(6) mixing ~~said~~ the first audio packet with ~~said~~ the second audio packets from the first plurality of clients into a composite packet; and

(7) forwarding ~~said~~ the composite packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; ~~and~~

whereby ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server is independent from ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby the packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of the plurality of clients who have been designated

as an active speaker.

2. (**Withdrawn**): The method of claim 1, wherein said composite packet is forwarded with echo suppression.

3. (**Currently amended**): A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server;

(2) designating ~~said~~ the connection as an active speaker on ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(3) receiving, over ~~said~~ the connection, a first audio packet from ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server, wherein ~~said~~ the first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server; wherein ~~said~~ the ~~plurality of audio~~ mixture of packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

(4) receiving, by ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein ~~said~~ the plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(5) mixing ~~said~~ the first audio packet and ~~said~~ the second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

(6) forwarding ~~said~~ the one combined audio packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server; and

(7) forwarding, over ~~said~~ the connection, ~~said~~ the second audio packet to ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; ~~and~~

whereby ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server is independent from ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby the packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of the plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

4. (**Currently amended**): A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to establish, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of ~~the~~ said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said circuit-switched conferencing server;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to forward said first audio

packet to each of ~~the~~ said first plurality of clients connected to said packet-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to receive, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of ~~the~~ said first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said plurality of audio packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

sixth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby ~~the~~ said first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; ~~and~~

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of said plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

5. (**Currently amended**): A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to establish, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to said packet-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said packet-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of ~~the~~ said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by ~~the~~ said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said ~~plurality~~

~~of audio~~ mixture of packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to receive, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of ~~the~~ said first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to mix said first audio packet and said second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

sixth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to forward said one combined audio packet to each of ~~the~~ said first plurality of clients connected to said circuit-switched conferencing server; and

seventh computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby ~~the~~ said first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; and

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of said plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.